

Function: HHS Division
Department: Veterans Services
Program: Monetary Benefits and Assistance
Program Budget \$667,429.00

Department Mission:

To aid and advise veterans and/or their dependents in identifying veteran specific entitlements on the local, state, and federal level. To grant financial and medical assistance to qualified veterans and/or dependents when need is determined as mandated by MGL Chapter 115 and all other appropriate inquiries of active/former military and/or their dependents.

Program Goal:

The goal of the Benefits Program is to provide financial assistance, medical, counseling, and other services to eligible City Veterans and their beneficiaries in order to maximize the amount of benefits they receive and to solve their problems.

Program Narrative:

Since 1861, from its first commitments to Civil War veterans, their spouses and their dependents, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has demonstrated solid concern and compassion for those men and women who have displayed sacrifice, valor and duty when their state and nation called upon them. The Massachusetts Dept. of Veterans' Services supports a network of services and benefits to ensure that none of the 600,000 veterans in Massachusetts today, nor their 1.2 million dependents will go hungry, be homeless or medically deprived. Since WWII the responsibility for the proper administration of benefits has been spelled out in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115.

In Springfield, it is the Springfield Veterans' Service Dept. to whom the unemployed, the indigent, the disabled the ill, or veterans otherwise in need, first apply for assistance. The Springfield Veterans' Service Dept. is available to any Springfield resident who seeks information or assistance in the area of veteran's benefits and services.

Program Objectives:

1. The goal of the Financial/Medical/Burial Activity is to provide monetary benefits to eligible City veterans and their dependents to maximize their financial stability.
2. The goal of the Counseling/Referral/Outreach Activity is to advise, assist, and refer City Veterans and their dependents to maximize their access to all benefits.
3. The goal of the Advocacy Activity is to advocate on behalf of eligible City Veterans and their dependents on a local, state and federal level so that they may receive all benefits available.
4. The goal of the Community/Patriotic Activity is to provide and support Military Personnel, City Veterans, and all City Citizens both ceremonial and educationally in order to maximize all services available.

Key Program Measures	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Projected</u>
Percent increase/decrease in the # of eligible participants (benefits)	3%	14%	4%
Average amount of assistance /year	\$ 4,752	\$ 4,888	\$ 5,031
Average of monthly Contacts Receiving Counseling and Referral	540	580	595
Percent of successful Advocacy Claims/Appeals	56%	59%	61%
Percent increase in events financially supported	0%	0%	10%

Proposed Program Changes:

Anticipated legislated increase in financial benefits paid out.

City of Springfield
Program Summary
HHS DIVISION
VETERAN'S SERVICES
Monetary Benefits and Assistance

	Actual				
	Expenditures	Adopted	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	03/31/05	06/30/05	FY 06
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY					
Regular Payroll	\$ 212,137	\$ 212,953	\$ 158,327	\$ 212,953	\$ 213,196
Purchase of Service	3,731	4,273	1,991	4,273	4,273
Materials and Supplies	697	1,352	526	1,352	1,021
Other (Veteran's Benefits)	388,030	448,608	315,831	421,108	448,939
Total	\$ 604,595	\$ 667,186	\$ 476,675	\$ 639,686	\$ 667,429

	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
REVENUE SUMMARY			
Non General Fund			
Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reimbursements	-	-	14,592
Total Non General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,592
General Fund			
General Fund Fees	\$ 315,114	\$ 230,077	\$ 295,030
General Fund Contribution	289,481	409,609	357,807
Total General Fund	\$ 604,595	\$ 639,686	\$ 652,837
Total	\$ 604,595	\$ 639,686	\$ 652,837

	Actual	Estimated	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
FUNDED POSITIONS/FTEs			
Administrative Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00
Vets Service Investigator	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Dir. of Veterans Services	1.00	1.00	1.00
Veterans Service Director	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total	4.00	4.00	4.00

	Adopted	Adopted	Proposed
	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
APPROPRIATION SUMMARY			
Personal Services	\$ 212,137	\$ 212,953	\$ 213,196
Other Than Personal Services	\$ 392,458	\$ 454,233	\$ 439,641
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 604,595	\$ 667,186	\$ 652,837